

# Integration of gas/H2 DSOs

## Webinar : An introduction to DSO Entity + Q&A

28 May 10:00-11:00



# Agenda

- **Opening remarks** (Peter Vermaat, Secretary General)
- **Introduction to DSO Entity and registration of gas/H2-DSOs**
  1. Who we are (Peter Vermaat/ Françoise Maon)
  2. Gas/Hydrogen integration timeline
  3. Motivation for creation and enlargement of DSO Entity
  4. Our tasks
  5. Governance and organisation
  6. Board election
  7. Indicative budget and membership fee
  8. Membership application procedure
- **Q&A**
- **Closing of the webinar**

## Housekeeping Rules

- Participants will be in listen-only mode during this webinar.
- If you experience any technical issues, please let us know via the chat.
- **Please submit all your questions through the Q&A panel** rather than the chat.
- This webinar is recorded, and the recording will be available on our website.
- The presentation slides will also be available on our website.
- A document containing a summary of the questions submitted and answers provided will be published on our website as well.

# 1. Who we are: the European voice of DSOs

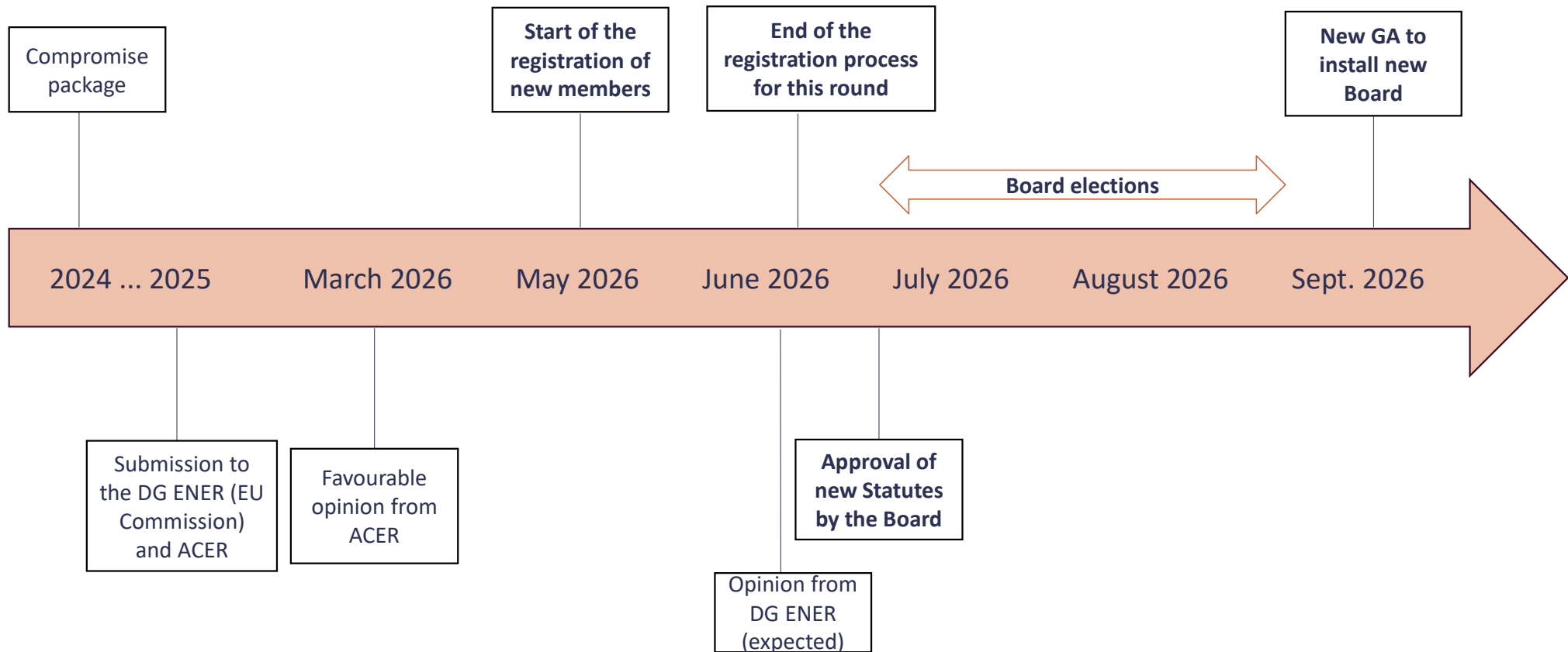
## Uniting DSOs to deliver a just energy transition

WHO WE ARE	WHAT WE DO	WHY IT MATTERS
EU association of <b>Electricity and/or Gas and Hydrogen DSOs</b> of all sizes in Europe.	<b>Give DSOs a voice</b> in the EU institutional landscape and unite them to support the delivery of a just energy transition in a resilient and sustainable manner.	<b>Sector-integrated, decentralised energy systems</b> are a key enabler to meet EU climate objectives on <b>decarbonisation</b> by 2030 and reach climate neutrality by 2050.
Founded in <b>June 2021</b> with an <b>institutional mandate</b> by the Electricity* and Gas** Regulations.	Develop proposals to the EU Commission for <b>technical guidelines like Network Codes</b> and related activities.	Decentralised renewable energy resources and their grid infrastructures contribute to <b>EU's strategic autonomy, competitiveness and independence.</b>
<b>Members:</b> registered European DSOs <b>Observers:</b> national or European associations can support our members by joining as observers	<b>Cooperate with TSOs</b> via ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G and ENNOH	
<b>Organisational set-up</b> with a GA, a Board of Directors, two Councils, a Secretary General, a Strategic Advisory Group and (Country) Expert Groups.	Focus on technical matters in a <b>neutral way.</b>	

\* Electricity Regulation (EU) 2019/943

\*\* Gas Regulation (EU) 2024/1789

## 2. Gas & Hydrogen integration timeline

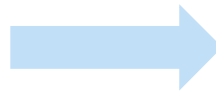


### 3. Motivation for creation and enlargement of DSO Entity: Strengthening DSO visibility & positioning to develop future proof conditions

#### Three dimensions are key

##### Changes in the energy system

- Fossils → Renewable and intermittent
- Centralised → Distributed and flexible
- Analogue → Digital and data management



##### Enhanced role for DSOs

- DSOs are integrators of the largest share of renewables.
- DSOs become active system managers.
- Holistic DSO-TSO network planning and cooperation needed, based on a system-of-systems view for electricity, gas and heating grids.

#### Single point of contact for Network Codes and implementing legislation

- Single means of **institutional representation** of DSOs for the development of Network Codes.
- Membership allows DSOs to actively contribute to the decision making process.

### 3. Motivation for creation and enlargement of DSO Entity: DSO Entity supports all DSOs to further enhance their value to society

EUROPE'S AMBITION...



#### Climate neutrality by 2050

Delivering on EU Green Deal and decarbonization goals

#### Reliable and affordable energy

ensuring security of supply at competitive prices

#### Strategic autonomy and independence

Reducing reliance on external energy imports

... REQUIRES IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM ALL DSOs ...



#### Resilience and stability

Ensuring security and reliability across energy systems in Europe

#### Cost-efficient innovation and sustainability

Enabling adoption of new technologies and renewable solutions at the lowest possible cost

#### Inclusive and future-proofed

Covering a diversity of DSOs for Electricity, Gas and hydrogen of all sizes

... FOR WHOM THE DSO ENTITY  
CREATES VALUE



#### Sharing of neutral expertise

Providing a trusted, neutral platform for knowledge sharing and cooperation

#### Sector integration, customer oriented and silo breaking

Uniting electricity, gas, and hydrogen DSOs on one platform from an integrated energy system approach

#### Strong representation at EU level

A credible organization in the institutional frame of the regulatory cooperation with EC and ACER, also actively connecting to TSO platforms

## 4. Our tasks: three pillars are at the core of DSO Entity's work



### Network Codes & Guidelines

Participates in drafting Network Codes (NCs) and Guidelines relevant for DSO grids

**New Network Code**

**Implementing acts**

**Review of existing NCs**

**EU task forces**



### DSO/TSO cooperation

Promotes optimal and coordinated planning and operation of DSO/TSO networks

**Cooperation on NCs**

**MoU activities**

**TYNDP scenario building**

**Knowledge sharing events**



### Sharing best practice

Expert Groups and forums provide expertise and enable exchange of views

**Various forms of knowledge sharing**

**Project teams (events, expert tables)**

**DSO radar reports**

## 4. Our tasks in the European landscape

We strive for efficient and coherent cooperation with other associations

Advocacy

EU associations representing  
electricity (and partly gas) DSOs



EU institutional

Mandated bodies\* representing  
DSOs / TSOs

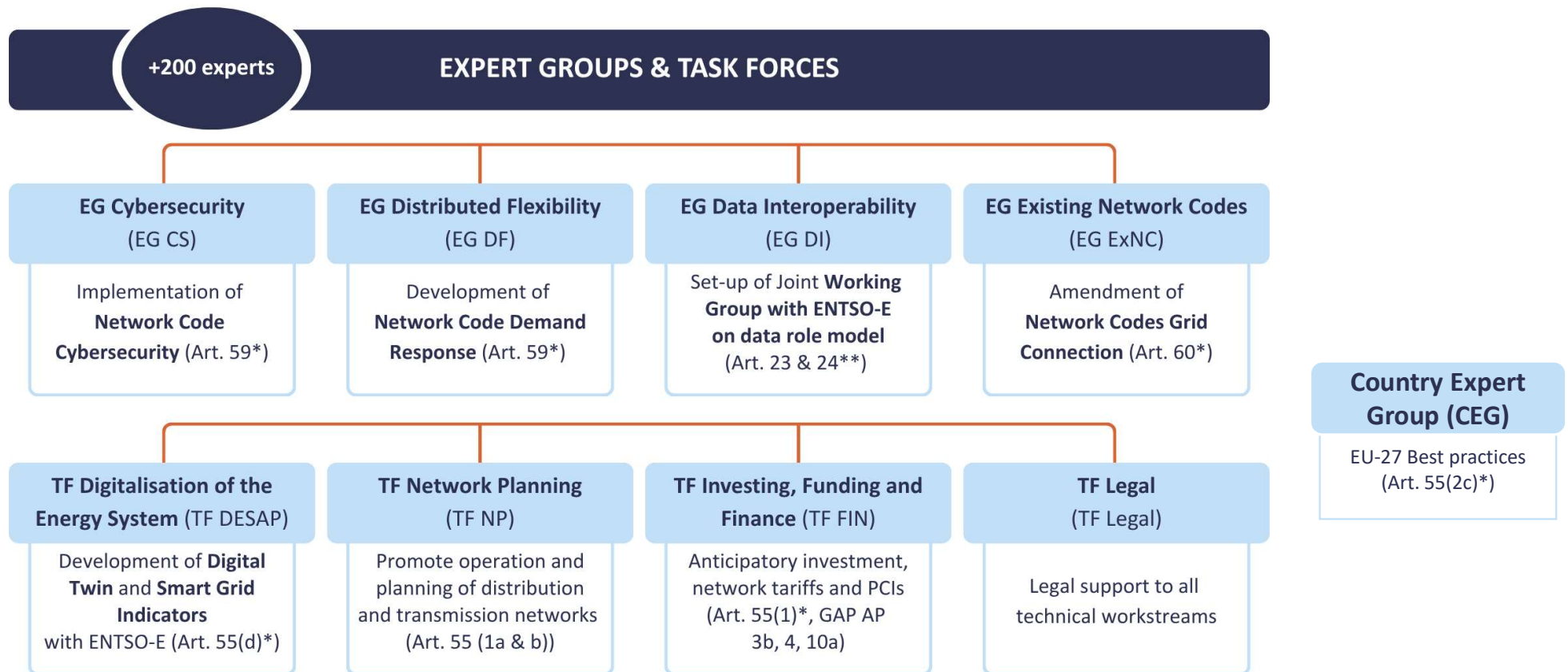


\* Electricity Market Regulation (2019/943/EU)



## 4. Our tasks: Expert Groups and Task Forces

From our mandated tasks, the EGs/TFs below were established, utilising the knowledge of > 200 experts from our members



## 4. A similar work programme will be developed for gas/H2 (where appropriate, jointly with electricity-topics)

Based on the above three pillars, and **referencing Regulation (EU) 2024/1789**, this work programme is **likely to additionally cover** (in cooperation with ENTSO-G, GIE and ENNOH):

- Development of **Network Codes relevant for DSOs** like NC Capacity Allocation Mechanism (NC CAM), e.g. on integration of renewable and low-carbon gases or on *reverse flow*.
- Contributing to **digitalisation**, including data interoperability, **system integration with TSOs** (including gas quality specifications).
- Supporting **data interoperability** and secure operational data exchange between system operators (e.g. Interoperability and Data Exchange Network Code — INT NC).
- Contributing to **emissions reduction and decarbonisation objectives**.
- Facilitating **knowledge sharing** and the development of **best practices** among DSOs.

## 5. Budget and membership fee

Regulation stipulates that activities are paid by members

Both Regulation and Statutes give clear **guidance on the budget and memberfee:**

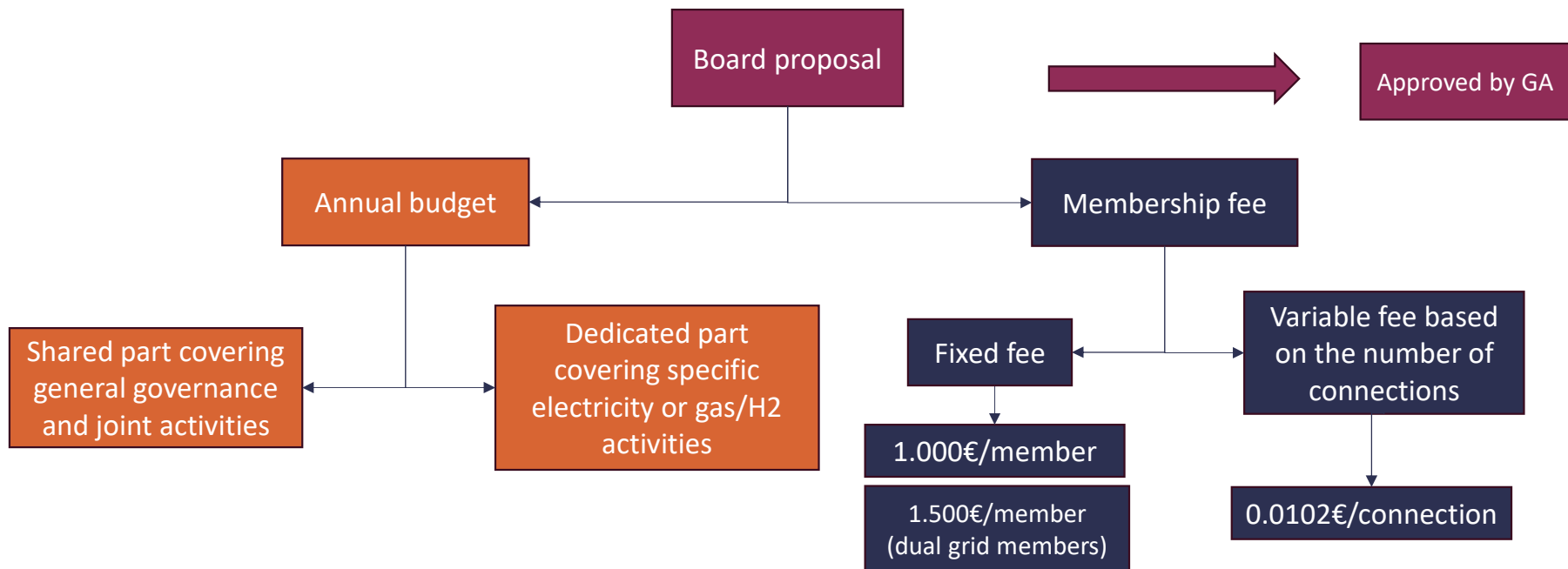
- **Approval**, based on work programme: Board to propose, GA to approve both annual budget and member fee.
- **Fair and proportionate membership fees**, reflecting the number of connected customers:
  - A relatively **low fixed fee per year**, equal for every member
  - A **variable fee per year** that is related to the number of **connections**
- **Prevent cross-subsiding and fairly allocate** between electricity and gas/H2:
  - **Shared part** (covering general governance, member admin. and joint activities)
  - **Dedicated part** (covering specific electricity or gas/H2 activities)
- **Anticipated budget for gas/H2 in 2026 is 1.3m€, covering:**
  - **Set-up cost** for integration (like update of member-portal to enable gas/H2 to join)
  - **Running cost** for activities on actual work for gas/H2 topics

# 5. Budget and membership fee

Costs and memberfee can be funded from the grid tariffs

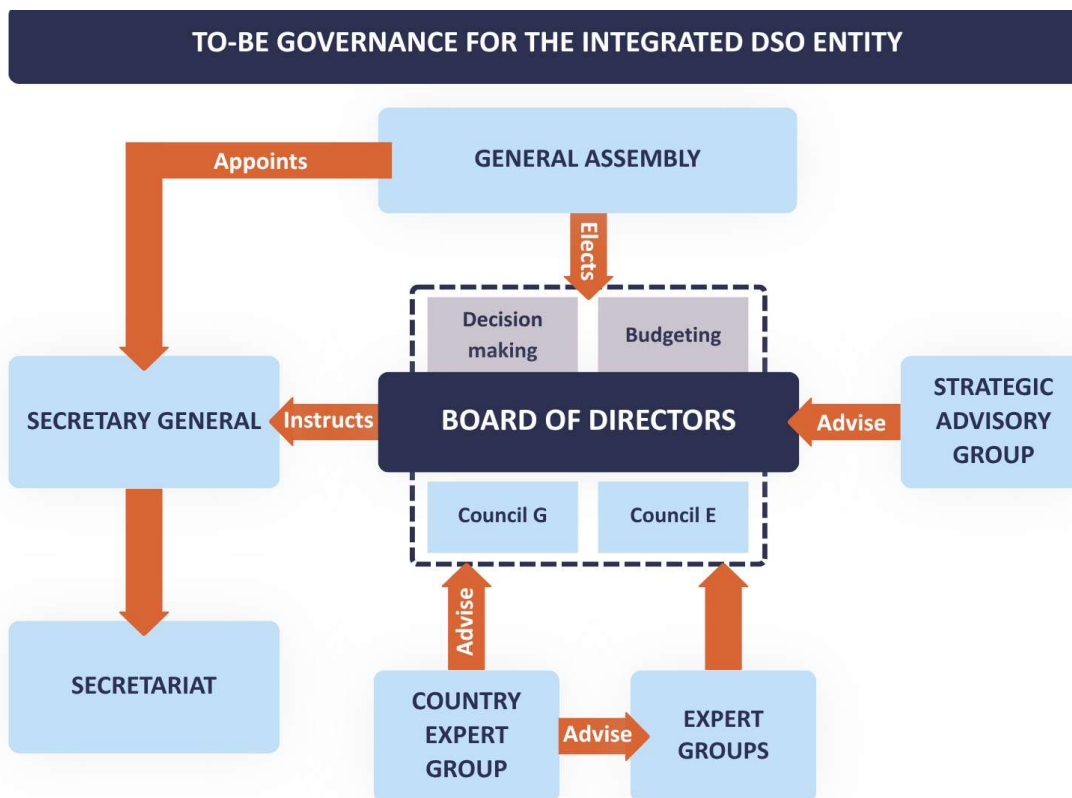
The **indicative budget & membership** fee for 2026 can be illustrated as follows:

- **Anticipated budget gas/H2 2026: 1.3m€**
- For reference - budget for electricity in 2026: 3.95m€



## 6. Governance and organisation

DSO Entity's new structure and main bodies enable balanced and active participation by members



### General Assembly

- Main body of DSO Entity
- Overall strategic decisions on work programme, budget and organisation

### Board

- Balanced composition of gas/electricity
- Balanced across categories 1-2-3 (< 100.000, 100.000 – 1.000.000, > 1.000.000 connections)
- Decision making: Board strives for unanimity (if not achieved “double vector majority” for both G and E)

**Advisory bodies to Board:** CEG and SAG

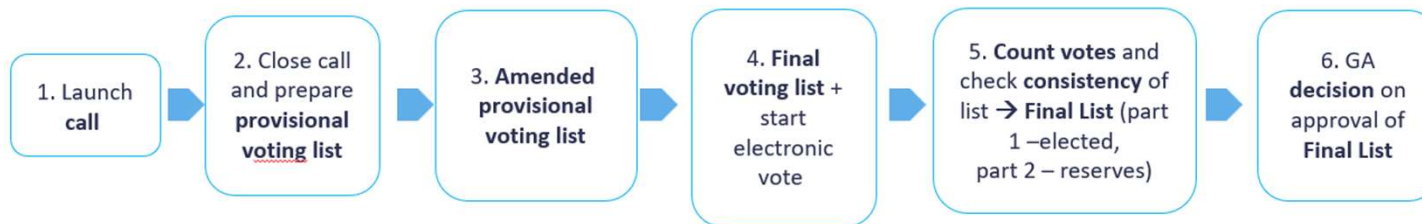
**Expert Groups (and Task Forces):** preparing and coordinating the actual work on technical proposals

**Secretariat (at moment 25 FTE):**

- Support governance Board/ GA/ etc.
- Member management
- Stakeholder management
- Support expert groups (incl. and Knowledge Sharing)

# 7. Board election

- Board composed of the President and 33 Directors, of which 21 Electricity Directors and 12 Gas/H2 Directors, equally split per category
- Every member may nominate a candidate to apply for a Board seat.
- Dual grid members may nominate a candidate per sector, but can only take up one seat in the final composition of the Board.
- It will be the role of the Secretariat and of the Nomination Committee to prepare the final list of candidates that will be submitted to the GA for approval



### Fair and balanced representation of diverse members:

1) Gas and electricity vectors:

Cat.	G	E
1	4	7
2	4	7
3	4	7
<b>33#</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>

2) Countries: Maximum 4 Members established in the same country

3) Industrial groups: Maximum 3 Members belonging to the same Industrial Group.



## 7. Board election: eligibility criteria and availability commitment

### Eligibility

- Be employed by a Member company
- Actively participate in Member's business activities
- Have decision-making authority

### Availability commitment

- 4 years mandate
- Attend 6 Board meetings and 2 General Assemblies per year
- To attend meetings in person as no substitute is allowed

## 7. Board election: President and Vice-Presidents

When applying for a Board seat, candidates may indicate their availability to serve as President of DSO Entity (President of the Board and of the General Assembly)

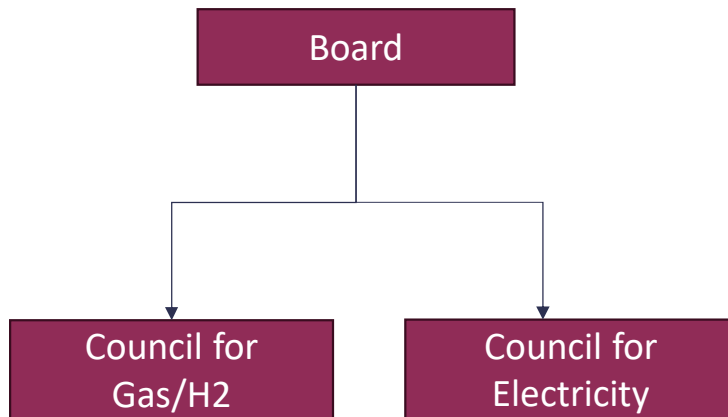
### President

- Only candidates approved by the Nomination Committee to be on the final list of candidates may stand for election.
- The Board elects the President, subject to GA endorsement before taking office.
- Chairs Board and GA meetings
- No voting rights
- Primary independent external representative.

### Vice-Presidents

- The Board appoints 3 Vice-Presidents among its members.
- At least one shall be a representative of an Electricity DSO and one of a Gas/H2 DSO.
- Vice-Presidents represent the Members of the category to which they belong

## 7. Board election: Electricity and Gas/H2 Councils



Once the Board is installed, two Councils will be established, one for Electricity and one for Gas/H2, with a maximum of 39 seats each.

They will prepare decision making in the Board, in close cooperation with the (technical) Expert Groups.

Composed of Directors who express their interest or they may nominate a senior management colleague

Reserve-list candidates may also join the relevant Council provided that they expressed their intention at the time of their candidacy. They may not nominate a replacement.

If fewer than 39 seats are filled, the Board may launch an open call for additional Council members.

# 8. Membership application procedure

## Becoming a member of DSO Entity

### Why register?

- Make your voice heard and ensure that your interests and values influence DSO Entity's decisions, shaping future-proof conditions for the energy transition.
- Guarantee diversity and a balanced representation of all DSOs in Europe regardless of their size.
- Strengthen DSO Entity's legitimacy and influence through broader DSO participation.

### Benefits of membership

- Voting right in GA
- Eligibility to join the Board of Directors or Councils
- Opportunity to participate in Expert Groups
- Access to information, feedback and support



Sent via email

## 8. Membership application procedure

### Approval step by step process

The approval of new members follows a **formal multi-step governance sequence**, initiated by DG ENER’s opinion on the revised Statutes. All **dates are tentative** based on an assumed DG ENER opinion on 12 June 2026

	Date	Step	Description
A	12th of June (estimated)	DG ENER opinion	<b>DG ENER issues its opinion</b> on the new integrated Statutes
B	15th of June	Closing of member registration	Registration <b>portal closes</b> for this round; later registrations are possible, but will be processed after Board election
C	End of June	Board and GA approval	<b>Current Board and GA</b> to approve: new <b>Statutes</b> , admittance <b>new members</b> and Nomination Committee (Board election)
D	Within 1-2 business days of GA approval	Onboarding emails	Emails sent with approved member list, new Statutes and onboarding documents + account activation invitation
E	July to mid-September	Board election, election guide to be circulated	All members can <b>submit a candidate</b> and <b>vote for a candidate</b> (proxies can be given)
F	4th week of September	New General Assembly approval	New GA formally approves new Board
G	Within 3 months of invitation	Account activation	Members must <b>activate their account</b> within 3 months
H	Q4 of 2026	Membership fee payment	Gas <b>membership fee</b> determined by the new Board and new GA, <b>invoices</b> sent to new members

# DSOs united in diversity

Enablers of the energy transition



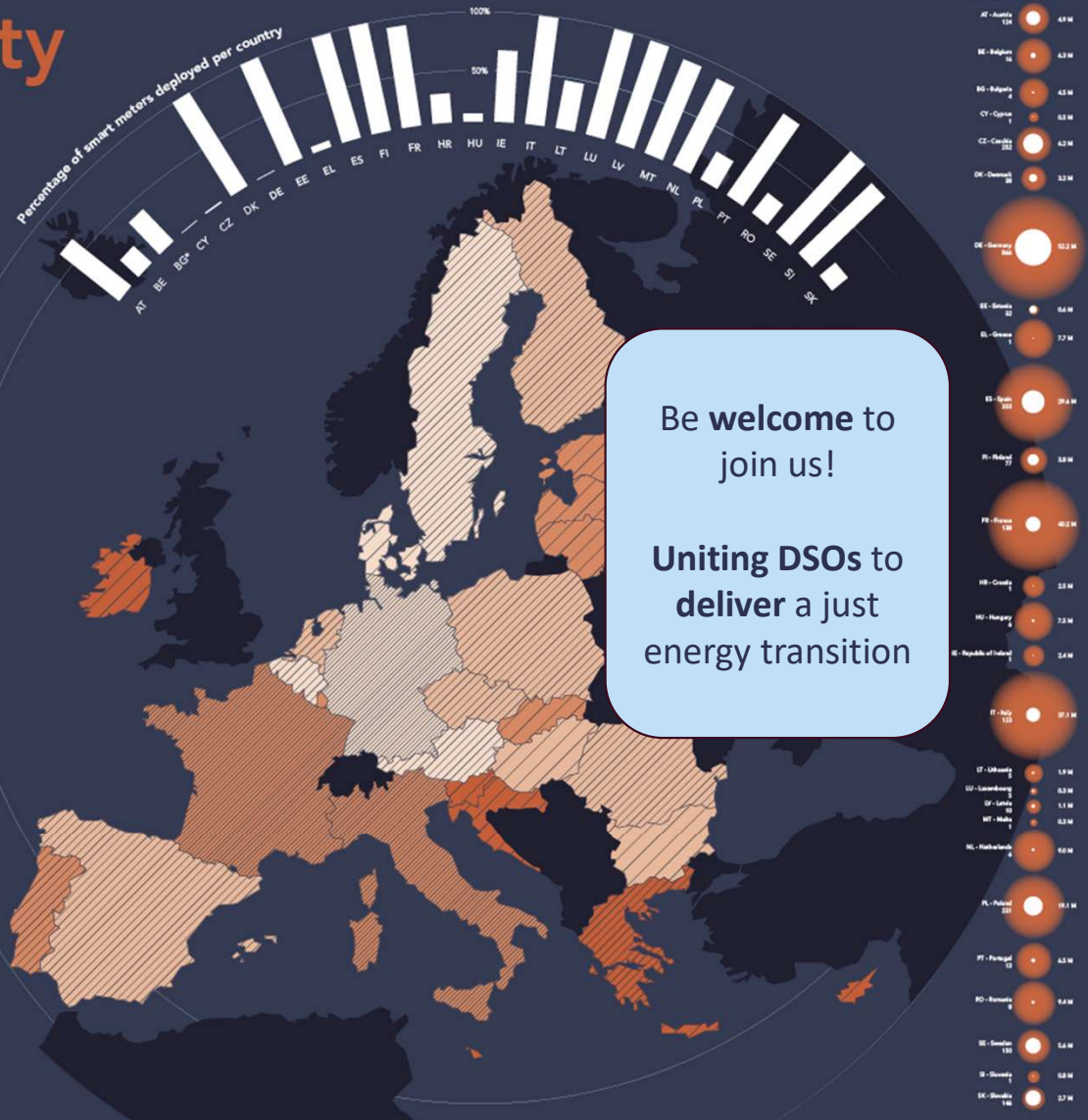
DSO Entity is tasked to **develop future-proof conditions for the electricity system** and to facilitate the energy transition

EU Entity legally mandated by Electricity Market Regulation 2019/943/EU

800 electricity Distribution System Operators (DSOs) of all sizes from all EU 27 Member States

10 million km of power lines (97% of all power lines)  
Four million distribution transformers

Connecting +250 million European households



Be welcome to join us!  
Uniting DSOs to deliver a just energy transition

**Questions?**

**Please, put them in the  
Q&A panel**

***Thank you for your  
attention!***

